

Serial No.: 09/911,353
Docket No.: VAS-5644
Amendment dated December 19, 2003
Responsive to Office Action of November 28, 2003

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Prior to the present Office Action, claims 1-20 were pending. Claims 17-20 have been canceled, and therefore claims 1-16 remain pending.

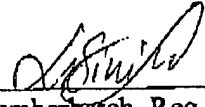
5 In the interview discussion, Applicants asserted that claims 1-16 are allowable because of the lack of an animal tissue tube for receiving a stent or stent/graft in a fluid test assembly in Dunkelman, et al. (U.S. 5,792,603). Examiner Jackson agreed and has withdrawn any rejections of claims 1-16.

Claims 17-20 are canceled herewith without prejudice to facilitate allowance of claims 1-16.

10 In view of the foregoing remarks, claims 1-16 are allowable.

Respectfully submitted,

15 Date: Dec. 19, 2003


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